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From Campus to Career Clothes

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From Campus to Career

Clothes

by Jane Hammerly

Technical Journalism Sophomore



Cynthia Napier, H. Ec. Jr., suggests following the hint, "A suit a year until graduation."

WHEN YOU BUY your college clothes, do you think ahead to what you'll be doing in one, two or three years?

The size of the city in which you work and your job will determine the extent of difference between the type of clothing you wear now and that which you will wear on the job.

All graduates contacted in a recent survey stated that their career clothes were more conservative and less sporty than their college clothes. Some, because of poor buying, found they had to purchase almost completely new wardrobes.

One of the '52 graduates said she found herself stuck with a lot of sweaters, skirts and loafers which were definitely intruders in a business office. Finding that true, as many college graduates do, the new business woman had to buy herself a new wardrobe to combine with a few parts of her old one.

The grads aren't suggesting that you quit buying sweaters completely; they are just indicating that in most places sweaters will be out of place. You can wear them after work or on the week-ends, but a large wardrobe of sweaters for the commercial world is impractical.

Dark, well-fitting sweaters which are tucked in and belted will be good buys for casual wear; and you can wear your short-sleeved pull-overs under suits to make good-looking ensembles.

The piece of advice offered by every woman in the survey was, "Buy suits while you're in college." The conservative, tailored suit which can be worn to class with bobby-sox and loafers or dressed up with hosiery and heels for the office is the best buy in clothing, according to the women who are recent enough graduates to know YOUR situation.

One woman suggested that you buy a suit a year. The result upon graduation is that with adding only a few things your working wardrobe will be nearly complete.

Along the same line as the ever-practical suit is the basic dress you can wear to class or to your office. If you purchase it in a plain color and a simple style,

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Cynthia (top) removes her jacket and has another outfit for the office. Donna Sartor, H. Ec. Jr., chooses a basic dress which can be worn many days in many ways to work. Both women wear suede heels (below) with leather mud-guards which protect the dressy yet hard-to-clean suede.



Clothes —

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you're bound to have a good office dress for many years to come.

Bobby-sox, of course, are completely taboo in business. Whether you wear flats or heels with your hosiery at work depends upon the job and the size of town. Several of the '52 graduates teaching in small towns in Iowa say that they usually wear flats to work, but occasionally heels. When they go to meetings and school functions, they always wear heels.

Women working in medium-size or large cities almost always wear heels to work. Those of you who end up in cities are bound to come into contact with more people, and it will be important that those of you in this situation always look your very best.

Whether you wear a hat to work or not depends mainly upon your job, not the size of the town. The women who work in clothing or textiles or with very large corporations are more likely to wear hats to work than those who teach in small towns. Almost all working women have found, though, that you will wear either string or fabric gloves rather than mittens. You probably won't wear a wool scarf, either. You will be more likely to go bare-headed or to wear a small hat.

By gradually buying scatter pins, tailored blouses and other serviceable accessories, you can equip your wardrobe for your career. Two pairs of opera pumps, brown and black, plus your accessories will make

your outfits wearable as well as glamorous.

Most women like clothes that do everything and go everywhere, and your wardrobe can do just that. It can go directly from Iowa State to Chicago or Atlantic, Iowa — or wherever your first job is — if you plan it carefully now.

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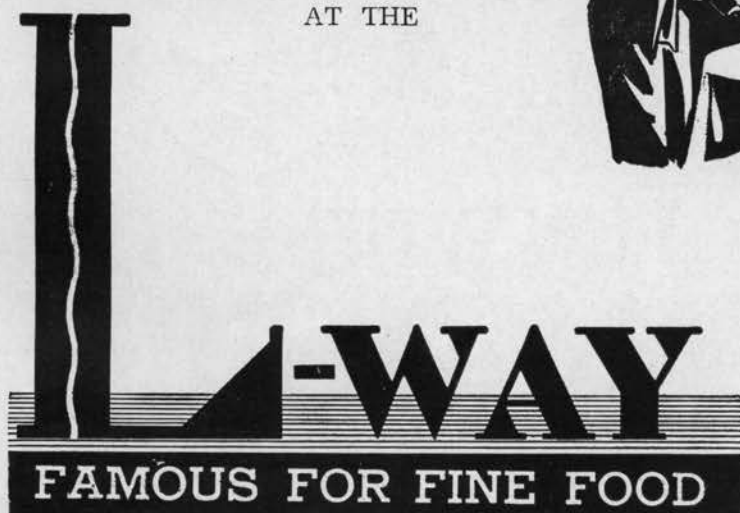
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